

THE YORKSHIRE POST AND LEEDS INTELLIGENCER  
5<sup>th</sup> March 1872

**ACCIDENTAL POISONING.**—A strange case of accidental poisoning is under investigation at Stafford. John Seymour, a boatman, was admitted into the Infirmary there on Thursday, exhibiting all the well-known symptoms of poisoning, and the illness, though treated with all the skill and promptitude at the command of the medical staff, terminated fatally in a few hours. Seymour's wife and mother-in-law were simultaneously taken ill with the same symptoms, which were consistent with antimonial poisoning. A week before the attack the deceased, who was accompanied by his wife and her mother, loaded a boat at Birmingham with newly-made dross from a galvanising works, and in a day or two they were all suddenly seized with illness—vomiting and purging. It is supposed that the fumes of the new dross, owing to some volatile ingredient employed in the process of manufacture, produced these disastrous effects. The man, however, died, and the women, under medical treatment, are recovering. The house-surgeon, who made a *post-mortem* examination of the body, found nothing to account for death by natural causes; and Mr Morgan, the coroner, has adjourned the inquest, to have the stomach and its contents submitted to the test of chemical analysis.

Burial at Eccleshall Road Cemetery, Stafford, Staffordshire dated 5<sup>th</sup> March 1872.

John Seymore, aged 48, boatman, from Infirmary at Stafford.

(John Seymour baptised at Wombourn on February 14 1824).

John Seymour's wife was Sarah Seymour nee Harrison, and his mother in law was Judith Harrison nee Brooks. Both survived. Sarah Seymour died in 1874 in West Bromwich, aged 42, and Judith Harrison also died in 1874 in Stoke on Trent, aged 65.

The article states that all three were taken ill on the preceding Thursday, which would have been the 29<sup>th</sup> of February, 1872 being a leap year. The hazardous cargo had been picked up in Birmingham about a week earlier.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February, Harriet Seymour, aged 4, was buried at Penkridge. I believe she was the youngest child of John and Sarah Seymour, and was probably on board the boat with her family.

